Bringing steel research and training institutes under an organisation

3185. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government, in a bid to meet the growing technical and human resource requirements of the steel industry, are planning to bring all existing steel research and training institutes under an umbrella organisation and also plan to almost double its funding for research and development activities in the steel sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (c) No, Sir. while it has been envisaged in the National Steel Policy (NSP) that the existing training and research institutes under the Ministry of Steel would be brought under an umbrella organization with representation from each segment of the industry, but similarly placed institutes in the private sector would continue to maintain their independent existence.

Production of iron ore

3186. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual production of iron ore by public sector companies is far below than that of the private sector companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last five years and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of plant utilisation capacity of public sector companies during the last five years, plant-wise; and

(d) the efforts being made to produce more and more iron ore in the country so as to compete with private players?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. However, it is a recent